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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Forty-fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1129th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 27 March 1992, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. POCAR

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Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE COVENANT (continued)

Initial report of Algeria (CCPR/C/62/Add.1) (continued)

1. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Benamara (Algeria) took a place at the Committee table.

2. Mr. BENAMARA (Algeria) said that the Committee's observations on his country's initial report would serve to improve Algeria's human rights activities. On specific points, he conceded that medical controls were lacking in places of internment but said that the situation was improving and would be helped further by the imminent release of many internees. Review and recourse procedures for internees, consisting of regional councils empowered to consider their cases, were being instituted.

3. Legal aid was obligatory in the case of persons charged with criminal offences subject to penalties of five years or more, but would of course also be granted to persons accused of offences that carried lesser sentences.

4. Far from wishing to conceal the linguistic and cultural problem of the Berbers, Algeria had sought to provide information on its efforts to promote Berber culture.

5. With respect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Algeria was giving serious consideration to the possibility of ratifying the Convention; it was also a candidate for membership in the Commission on the Status of Women.

6. Finally, Algeria was anxious to lift the state of emergency as soon as possible and to return to normal political conditions. In that regard, President Boudiaf had stated that democracy was not under threat in Algeria, but that in order to save it, it had been necessary to halt the electoral process temporarily, as all participants in the democratic process must be respectful of that process.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.